# RAJYA SABHA

*Wednesday, the 3rd December, 1986/12 Agrahayana 1908 (Saka).*

The House met at eleven of the clock, **Mr. Chairman** in the Chair.

## ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

**Ban on Manufacture of chloral hydrate**

*421. SHRI B. SATYANARAYAN REDDY:†

DR. G. VIJAYA MOHAN REDDY:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that because of adulteration of toddy with chloral hydrate which is poisonous and dangerous to human life, millions of people become addict and many deaths take place; and

(b) if so, whether Government propose to ban the manufacture of chloral hydrate which is no more used as a medicine in medical treatment?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (KUMARI SAROJ KHAPARDE): (a) and (b) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

**Statement**

(a) The "toddy" is defined under the Prevention of Food Adulteration Rules (under item a. 29.01, in Appendix 'B') as the sap from coconut, date, toddy palm tree which has undergone alcoholic fermentation. Appendix 'B' of P.F.A. rules' 1955 gives standards of "toddy" which states it sh be free from colouring matter, dirt, foreign matter or any other ingredients injurious to health. It shall also the free from chloral hydrate and paraldehyde.

It shall conform to the following standards, namely:

(1) Alcohol content: Not less than 5 per cent.

(a) Total Tartaric Acid: Not more than 400 gms per 100 litres of absolute alcohol.

(3) Acetic acid: Not more than 100 gms per 100 litres of absolute alcohol.

It may be noted that chloral hydrate has specifically been prohibited in "toddy".

(b) There is no proposal to ban the manufacture of the drug chloral hydrate. However, combinations of chloral hydrate with other drugs have already been banned in July, 1983 to prevent indiscriminate use of this drug.

SHRI B. SATYANARAYAN REDDY: Mr. Chairman, Sir, the Minister in her reply said that there is no proposal to ban the manufacture of the drug chloral hydrate. I would like to know the reasons for not banning this drug. "Toddy" is a poor man's drink and at the same time killer of the poor man. Millions of people in the rural India drink "Toddy". This "Toddy" is being adulterated with chloral hydrate. This is taken recourse to because of the hydrotactic effect and also it is habit forming. So people are usually addicted to this. It is a very dangerous thing to mix up the chloral hydrate with Toddy. The Minister has also said that she has taken precautions so that this chloral hydrate is not mixed up with "Today" but there are instances and she might have seen that the contractors are in the habit of mixing up this chloral hydrate with "Toddy" and a large number of people who are addicted to this suffer and some deaths have also taken place...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Reddy, I am going to enforce the rules that no question should exceed 150 words. (*Interruptions*).

†The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shri B. Satyanarayan Reddy.

SHRI B. SATYANARAYAN REDDY: I will put my next supplementary.... (*Interruption*) I wouldlike to know the Minister as to when she is going to ban this drug? In the meantime, how she is going to prevent this chloral hydrate from adulteration with "Toddy"?

SHRI P. V. NARASIMHA RAO: Sir, I entirely agree with the situation described by the hon. Member and referred to in the question. Mr. Reddy knows about it as much as I know. We have been facing it for years and years now. The amount of "Toddy" is going down and the amount of chloral hydrate is going up. But the difficulty in this is a very genuine difficulty. This is being used by the contractors to adulterate "Toddy". But chloral hydrate has other positive uses. At one time it was a necessary ingredient of certain medicines and that problem fortunately seems to have been solved, by and large because other substitutes have come and it may not be needed any more for those medicines. But it is still needed in the largest possible quantity in the manufacture of D.D.T. Now, we cannot say that we can do away with D.D.T. This D.D.T. is a massive programme and without the manufacture of D.D.T. it is not possible for us to control malaria and other health programmes that we have. So unless we have a substitute in the place of chloral hydrate in the manufacture of D.D.T. on an industrial scale, it will not be possible for us to ban this drug. This is a genuine difficulty. But I would like to say that we have not closed our mind. At the moment we have not banned it. We are not in a position to ban it. According to our information it has not been banned in any other country. It is being used in many, many countries and it has not been banned anywhere. But if fortunately we are able to think of equally cost effective substitution for chloral hydrate in the manufacture of D.D.T. we would then reconsider the case. But right now there is no possibility.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Second supplementary.

SHRI B. SATYANARAYAN REDDY: The Minister has said that it is not possible to completely ban chloral hydrate at this juncture.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to know at least if it is very necessary for the use of certain medicines or DDT, what the hon. Minister said, whether the Government can take necessary steps to see that this will not be sold freely in the market and where the licence is needed, the licence will be confined to them only and it should not be available to others.

SHRI P. V. NARASIMHA RAO: Mr. Chairman, Sir, all those restrictions which we can clamp down, they are already there. The question is one of implementation and as the hon. Member knows that is where the snag comes in. The question of banning, as I said, is not on the card but it could come on the cards under certain circumstances. I am also trying to explore the possibility in consultation with the Ministries concerned. If we could really think of a substitute on the industrial side so that we could perhaps ban it but right now, it is not possible. Restrictions are already there. Conditions are already there. It can be given under doctor's prescription. All those restrictions are there but the question is—it is not the restrictions but the implementation of the restrictions that at fault and that is the root cause of all this adulteration.

DR. G. VIJAYA MOHAN REDDY: Mr. Chairman, Sir, therapeutically, it is not used. It is only used for the manufacture of DDT. If it is used for the manufacture of DDT, then only one concern should be given the licence. Indiscriminate licencing to the other manufacturers may be completely stopped and the production also may kindly be checked so that the production channel will be only where DDT is manufactured so that these contractors may not get these dangerous drugs adulterated. The cost of toddy is 10 paise and the contractors sell it for two rupees a bottle. Such a difference is there and they make a lot of profit.

SHRI P. V. NARASIMHA RAO: Dr. Reddy would appreciate that chloral hydrate comes in two varities. One is the medicinal varity which is not very harmful and the other is the industrial variety, which is much more harmful. Now the situation in implementation being what it

is, if I ban or if I completely cut out the medicinal variety, I have absolutely no doubt that the non-medicinal industrial variety will be used for adulteration and things will be much worse and the results will be much more dangerous, much more catastrophic. So, on the one side, it is a question of implementation, on the other to find a substitute to industrial use also so that we can ban it altogether. Now, both are, at the moment, difficult to achieve but our effort will be to achieve them.

PROF. (MRS) ASIMA CHATTERJEE: Mr. Chairman, Sir, the chloral hydrate was being used not only for the production of DDT but also for the preparation of chloralose used as an anaesthesia for animal experiments. Now, the question is—may I know from the hon. Minister that when it is a deadly, poisonous chemical, why its, production is not being banned and secondly, the combination of the drug have been banned in 1983, then why is the manufacture of this particular chemical not being banned when it is poisonous?

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Minister has answered that point.

SHRI D. B. CHANDRE GOWDA: Mr. Chairman, Sir, may I know from the hon. Minister in view of the fact there was a worst hooch tragedy which took away the lives of 340 people and it is not only toddy but the Indian manufactured liquor is also adulterated at various levels, whether the Government would direct the concerned States while giving the licences to other liquors also alongwith toddy that these things could be distributed under the direct supervision and vigilance of the State Governments?

MR. CHAIRMAN: No, no, not relevant. This relates to the manufacture of chloral hydrate.

SHRI D. B. CHANDRE GOWDA: No, no, Even the chloral hydrate when mixed with toddy, it could be given under the direct supervision and control of the State Governments.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Alright, put that question in that way.

SHRI P. V. NARASIMHA RAO: Sir, any mixing of chloral hydrate with any intoxicant makes that intoxicant infinitely more dangerous for the health and sometimes for the life of the person who takes it. So if chloral hydrate is banned, there are so many other sedatives, there are so many other substances with the same effect that could be used. So it is not really a question of one chloral hydrate. It is a question of sedatives being mixed with liquor. Whether it is toddy or other liquor, it does not matter. The effect is the same. But since the question concerns chloral hydrate, I have given all the details in regard to chloral hydrate.

श्री जगदम्बी प्रसाद यादव : सभापति महोदय, मैं माननीय मंत्री जी से जानना चाहता हूं कि क्लोरल हाइड्रेट के बारे में जो ताड़ी में मिलावट की जाती है जिसके कारण हैबिट फार्म करता है और इसके अधिक मिलावट के कारण देश में ताड़ी पीने से मरने वालों की संख्या साल भर में हजारों की पहुंचती है, लेकिन मुझे आश्चर्य यह है कि आप चाहे प्रतिबंध लगायें या और रेस्ट्रिक्शन डालें यह ताड़ी भारतवर्ष के लाखों गांवों और देहातों में पिलाई जाती है और पीने वालों को क्लोरल हाइड्रेट के बारे में कोई जानकारी नहीं है कि इसमें क्या मिला है और क्या नहीं मिला है ? इसलिए मैं यह जानना चाहता हूं कि यह जो लाखों ग्रामों में ताड़ी पीने की व्यवस्था फली हुई है उस व्यवस्था में पीने वाले लोग ग्रामीण अंचल में हों या मुखिया के द्वारा हो या प्रमुख के द्वारा हो क्लोरल हाइड्रेट के अधिक इस्तेमाल के कारण जिससे जान जा सकती है और आदत बिगड़ सकती है इसके लिए भारत सरकार कोई ऐसा उपाय प्रचार के द्वारा, रेस्ट्रिक्शन के द्वारा या लिटरेचर के द्वारा कुछ करने की व्यवस्था है क्या ? आप रेस्ट्रिक्शन कर दें, दवा भी प्रोहिबिट कर दें क्योंकि वहां दवा को रोकने वाला कोई नहीं है इसलिए मैं उसकी जानकारी चाहता हूं ?

SHRI P. V. NARASIMHA RAO: Sir, this can be done only at the State Government level, that is, the implementation

level. What all we can do is to get it channelised, give all the details about it, warn the public. All that is being done at the Central level. The actual implementation, catching hold of the person who is adulterating it, will have to be done by the State Governments. We are in touch with the State Governments. I do agree that maybe some more dialogue is needed. We will certainly do that . That is a normal thing.

MR. CHAIMAN: More question on this will intoxicate the House. Next question.

SHRI P. V. NARASIMHA RAO: Sir, I have not brought chloral hydrate with me.

*422. [*The questioner (Shri Promod Mahajan) was absent. For answer,* vide col. infra]

*423. [*The questioners (Shri V. Gopalsamy and Shri K. Gopalan) were absent. For answer,* vide col. infra].

*424. [*The questioner (Shri Talari Manohar) was absent. For answer,* vide col. infra.]

**बाह्य उम्मीदवारों को हायर सेकन्डरी परीक्षाओं में बैठने की सुविधा**

425. **कुमारी सईदा खातून : क्या मानव संसाधन विकास मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :**

(क) **क्या पुरानी शिक्षा नीति में एक राज्य से दूसरे राज्य में जाने वाले प्राइवेट छात्रों-लड़कों और लड़कियों-दोनों को हायर सेकन्डरी परीक्षा में बाह्य उम्मीदवारों के रूप में बैठने की सुविधा, नयी शिक्षा नीति में उपलब्ध होगी ;**

(ख) **यदि नहीं, तो क्या ऐसे प्राइवेट छात्र और छात्राओं को जो अपने माता पिता के साथ एक राज्य से दूसरे राज्य में चले जाते हैं और जो विद्यालयों में प्रवेश नहीं ले सकते हैं, इन परीक्षाओं में बैठने की अनुमति दी जाएगी; और**

(ग) **उन राज्यों के नाम क्या है जिनमें अन्य राज्यों से आने वाले छात्रों को इन परीक्षाओं में बैठने की अनुमति दी जाती है ?**

**मानव संसाधन विकास मंत्री तथा स्वास्थ्य और परिवार कल्याण मंत्री (श्री पी० वी नरसिंह राव)** : (क) **राष्ट्रीय शिक्षा नीति 1986 में इस आशय की अपेक्षाओं के संबंध में किसी प्रकार के परिवर्तन की परिकल्पना नहीं की गई है कि उम्मीदवारों को उच्चतर माध्यमिक परीक्षाओं में बैठने के लिए उन्हें अवश्य पूरा करना चाहिए ।**

**(ख) प्रश्न नहीं उठता ।**

(ग) **क्योंकि सूचना का संबंध अनेक राज्यों से है, अत : यह एकत्र की जा रही है और सभा पटल पर रख दी जाएगी ।**

**कुमारी सईदा खातून** : सभा पति **महोदय, मंत्री जी ने जो मेरे प्रश्न का उत्तर दिया है उससे मुझे सन्तुष्टि नहीं है। मेरा प्रश्न यह था कि जैसा आउट आफ स्टेट कैंडीडेट्स बिजनैस के बतौर या ट्रांसफर या सैन्ट्रल सर्विसेज के बिनह पर जो कैंडीडेटस आते हैं अपने फादर-मदर के साथ उनके एडमिशनज जो स्कूलों में जैसे पहले पुरानी शिक्षा नीति में यह था मध्य प्रदेश में खास तौर से कि ऐसे कैंडीडेट्स जो प्राइवेट रूप से बैठना चाहते थे उनके लिए कोई दो डिस्ट्रिक्ट्स दे दिए जाते थे भोपाल या इंदौर में आप प्राइवेट फार्म भरे अब चूंकि नई शिक्षा नीति 10 प्लस 2 की स्कीम में यह चीज नहीं है, आउट आफ् स्टेट कैंडीडेट्स वहीं जाकर परीक्षा दे उनको आगे सहूलियत के लिए कोई प्रावधान नहीं है तो मैं यह मालूम करना चाहती हूं ?**

[انوارى سعيد خاتون: سبھاپتى مہودے- مانڈى جى نے جو ميرے پرشن كا اتر ديا ھے اس سے مجھے سنتشٹى نہيں ھے- ميرا پرشن يہ تھا كہ جيسا آؤٹ آف اسٹيٹ كنڈيڈيٹس بزنس كے بطور يا ٹرانسفر سينٹرل سروسز كے بنا پر جو كنڈيڈيٹس آتے ھيں اپنے فادر- مدر كے ساتھ انكے ايڈميشنز جو اسكولوں ميں جيسے پہلے پرانى شكشا نيتى ميں تھا- مدھيہ

[ ]Transliteration in Arabic Script.